talis or ipecacuanha, which exert no appreciable effect in expediting the period of defervescence, and in 10 it was combined with tartar emetic, which does exert an effect of this kind. Of the first series, rapid defervescence took place in 7 slight and medium cases in from the third to the sixth day, and in 19 bad cases it varied from the second to the ninth day. In the 10 cases of the second series, it took place from the third to the seventh day.

In 39 cases in which the commencement of the disease could be accurately ascertained, venesection was employed. First, in 18 of these it was employed on the first or second day. In 10 of these there was immediate arrest of the process; in 2, immediate arrest with a somewhat slower continuance of improvement; in 5, a considerable diminution of fever, with a later but less considerable return, the fever ceasing in 4 cases on the sixth, and in 1 on the seventh day. In 1, no effect was produced, improvement following only after local bleeding. Secondly, in 21 the venesection was performed from the third to the fifth day; but in none of these cases was bleeding the only means employed. The results obtained even here contrasted very favourably with those obtained by expectative treatment. It was found that the conjunction of tartar emetic hastened the period of defervescence somewhat; that of local bleeding was scarcely of any effect, while the addition of digitalis was of no effect whatever.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, June 6, 1857, from *Virchow's Archiv.*, 1856.

30. *Glycerine in Consumption.*—There is much difference of opinion among medical men as to the influence of glycerine upon cases of consumption, some considering it scarcely inferior to cod-liver oil, while others regard it as valueless. With a view of testing its power, Dr. R. P. Cotton administered it in doses of one, two, and three drachms, twice a day, to twenty-three of the in-patients of the Consumption Hospital, Brompton. In only five of these was there any improvement, in all of which the weight was slightly increased. In two of these, however, a much greater advantage was subsequently gained under the use of cod-liver oil, the weight of one patient having increased as much as two pounds per week.

In seventeen cases, either there was no appreciable improvement, or the patients became worse; and one, in an advanced stage of the disease, ended fatally. In nine of these cases, more or less improvement occurred from the after use of the oleum aselli; in four instances, indeed the gain in weight was very distinctly marked.

In five cases, the glycerine either caused sickness, or otherwise disagreed with the stomach.

To any objection which may be raised that the glycerine was not given for a sufficiently long period, I would merely observe that, even in the cases where some improvement was noticeable, it appeared to me so probable that far greater good would accrue from the cod-liver oil, that I regarded a further trial of the other as unjustifiable; and that such an anticipation was, in some instances, at least, not ill founded, the table sufficiently demonstrates.

The following conclusions are, Dr. C. thinks, irresistible, viz.:—

1. That glycerine has generally but little influence upon phthisical cases.
2. That, as a remedial agent in consumption, it will bear no comparison with cod-liver oil.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, June 27, 1857.

31. *Electricity in the Suppression of the Lacteal Secretion.*—M. Becquerel, in a late communication to the Société Médicale des Hôpitaux de Paris, has made some remarks upon the influence of electricity in restoring the secretion of milk. His attention was called to the subject by a case related to him by M. Aubert, who had employed electricity in the case of a young woman whose milk had been suppressed in consequence of a double pneumonia. The electricity was applied to the breasts by means of moist excitors, and after four applications, each lasting twenty minutes, the lacteal secretion was completely restored. M. Becquerel was at first incredulous as to the reality of the result; but the following case, which fell under his observation, removed his doubts:—

A young woman, aged twenty-seven, well formed, although of a nervous temperament, had suckled a young infant for six months, but, on the occasion of some intense and often-repeated mental emotions, the lacteal secretion diminished considerably; the right breast retained a little milk, but the left was almost completely dried up. M. Becquerel applied the electrical current at first to the left breast, placing the moist excitors, made of sponge, successively in the different points of the circumference of the breast, so that the currents might traverse the organ in all directions. Three applications were made, each lasting a quarter of an hour. The patient suffered very little, and indeed experienced little more than a feeling of inconvenience. From the time of the first application, the rush of milk supervened almost immediately after the application of the electrical currents. After the third application, the secretion was full and entire; the child had taken the breast, and the milk was abundant in the left breast, and sufficient in the right to obviate the necessity of applying the electricity on that side.—*Dublin Hospital Gazette,* July 10, from *L'Union Médicale,* Jan. 3, 1857.

SURGICAL PATHOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS, AND OPERATIVE SURGERY.

32. *Hereditary Transmission of Tendencies to Cancerous and other Tumours.*—Dr. James Paget has made some interesting statistical investigations concerning the hereditary transmission of cancerous and other diseases.

Of 411 patients which he has tabulated, 244 had cancerous, *alias,* malignant tumours; 147 had non-cancerous, *alias* innocent tumours; and 10 had non-cancerous, but recurring tumours.

Among the 254 with cancers, 60, or 23.6 per cent. had relatives of the same or former generations with cancerous or other tumours.

Among the 147 with tumours neither cancerous nor recurring, 27, or 18.3 per cent. had such relatives with cancerous or other tumours.

Among the ten with recurring tumours, 4, or 40 per cent. had relatives with cancers.

According to these numbers, the respective hereditary tendencies to cancerous and to non-cancerous tumours would seem not very different. But an examination of the second and third tables discovers a great contrast between them.

Among the 60 cancerous patients whose relatives had tumours, not less than 57 had cancerous relatives; but among the 27 patients with tumours neither cancerous nor recurring, there were only 12 who had relatives with tumours like their own. The comparison of the respective probabilities of hereditary transmission would, therefore, be as 22.4 for the cancerous to 8.2 for the non-cancerous.

The contrast appears the stronger in sight of the fact that the greater part of the instances in which similar innocent tumours occurred in more than one member of the same family were limited to one kind of tumour. Of the 12 patients who had relatives with innocent tumours like their own, 7 had some form of cutaneous cyst of the scalp, leaving only 5, or 3.4 per cent., as marking the probability of hereditary transmission in all the other forms of innocent tumours reckoned together.

It is hence certain that cancerous disease, or a tendency to it, is prone to pass by inheritance from parent to offspring, and to occur (probably by inheritance of common properties) in many members of the same family and generation. It may seem unnecessary to bring evidence of a fact so generally believed; but there are some who doubt it, and many who are not aware of the large proportion of cases in which cancer may be referred to an hereditary origin. Moreover, a comparison shows, by the contrast of the two groups of cases, the cancerous and the non-cancerous, how many instances of apparently hereditary origin of the disease may be referred to accidental coincidence, or to the transmission, not of a diathesis, but of some peculiarity of the structure